



# SALEM BROOKEVILLE

A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

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## NEWSLETTER March 2023

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### A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

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Hello church! It is time for us to embark on one of my favorite seasons of the year: Lent. This year, we will dive into it with one of my favorite authors and podcasters, Kate Bowler. If you'd like to follow along at home, go to our website under the sermon series tab to download a daily Lenten devotional book. Otherwise, follow along on Sundays as we Bless This Lent. Below, we've copied an invitation from Kate to you.

Blessings,

Rev. Emily

An Invitation from Kate Bowler:

Sometimes we wait. Spiritually, I mean. We just wait. And wait. Maybe something will happen? In the meantime, our days are complicated by feelings that don't seem altogether very spiritual. Deep annoyance. Rehearsals of old fights. Anger at friends who are, in our defense, pretty frustrating sometimes. Our bodies ache. We are consumed by somebody else's problems, and we are fairly certain their lives are rushing toward despair. So we wait. At least I do. I assume that in some future day I will feel the truth of my spiritual belief that God is with us. That God never leaves. That God's presence is best (and I can't prove that this is theologically true) on bad days. When life is headed downhill, I tend to wait.

When Lent rolls around every year, we are offered a chance to stop waiting. We are in the part of the story when Jesus is an arrow

pointed straight at his own end. He will die. But first he will suffer and be betrayed; religious and political structures will conspire and conform to great evil; nothing will be peace on earth or goodwill to all humankind. No wise men and starry nights. It's misery. And it should make us pause. That is where we meet Jesus. We meet him on his way down. Lent is our annual rehearsal of the cosmic moment when Jesus' suffering and death and resurrection will change how we experience death. Death will not be the defining truth about us. Someday we will be freed from the gorgeous and horrible limitations of our human lives, and we will live forever with God (which is VERY DIFFICULT FOR ME TO IMAGINE. But it's the truth.).

But first Jesus suffers and dies. We walk with him. And he walks with us. Jesus will walk with us through whatever kind of Lenten day you are having. The lovely one. The garbage one. The one that barely seems like it counted at all. As we toggle through every kind of emotion—boredom, devastation, happiness, irritation—we want to say: bless this Lent.

This little guide is your invitation to bless whatever this season is actually bringing you. So let's stop waiting. This is the one we have.

Let's bless it all.

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## LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

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Our February Meeting began with a brainstorming of activities Salem could plan that would be in service of our goals, mission and vision. The idea is to develop both outreach activities and fellowship activities. Among the ideas suggested were:

- \* Find an easy way to participate in ASP
- \* Develop a prayer room ministry
- \* Puppy Day
- \* Playground Day
- \* Easter Egg Hunt
- \* Church Picnic
- \* Restart "Something's Happening at Salem"

We are open to any and all ideas from the congregation. Please share your ideas with Rev. Emily or a member of the Leadership Team. And please remember, it takes people to make these things happen.

Thanks to the hard work of Mark Aebig, the Leadership Team has been collecting, organizing and reviewing the many documents that over the years have been written to guide our work (Policies, Procedures, Guidelines, Rules, etc.). Some of our documents are new, others are older and in need of revision and updating. We are also discussing the best way to keep these documents available and accessible to everyone (notebook, hard drive, flash drive, etc.). If you would be interested in working on this project, please contact Mark Aebig [mjaebig1@verizon.net](mailto:mjaebig1@verizon.net).

## Commissioning



Pictured are Velma Durant, Churchill Groves, Mary Kay Abramson, Mark Aebig, and Hisashi Yamagata.

The Leadership Team was commissioned at the end of January. New members are Mark Aebig, Quinn Anderson, Buck Bartley, Churchill Groves, and Hisashi Yamagata. Returning members are Debbie Ambrose (head), Rev. Emily (*ex officio*), Velma Durant, and Mary Kay Abramson. Halsey rolled off the team.

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## WELCOMING SERIES

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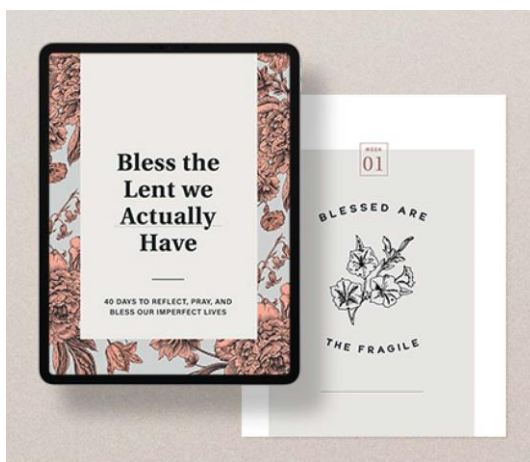
Have you ever wondered how we welcome guests to our church? In February, during Grace in Action, Rev. Emily presented a talk on welcoming guests into church, from the neighborhood to further out in the community. Look for the next Welcoming discussion by a guest speaker in March or April. Date to be announced.

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## MARCH SERMON SERIES

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- Mar 5 Blessed are the Curious  
John 3: 1-17
- Mar 12 Blessed are Those Who Suffer  
Romans 5: 1-11
- Mar 19 Blessed are Those Who Feel Alone  
Psalm 23

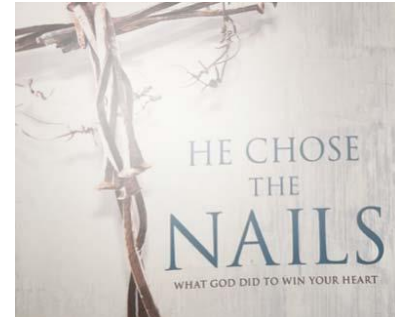
Mar 26 Blessed are Those Who Mourn  
John 11: 1-45

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## LENTEN STUDY

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During Lent there will be a Bible study starting March 2. The time will be Thursdays at 1 P.M. in the Community Hall. Vern Schinski has selected the book *He Chose the Nails* by Max Lucado. The study book can be purchased at Cokesbury or on Amazon, but it won't be needed for the class. Contact Vern at [vschinski5@verizon.net](mailto:vschinski5@verizon.net)

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## NEW WINTER BIBLE STUDY

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Join us Wednesday evenings on Zoom for our next Bible study:

*Bless the Lives We Actually Have* book and  
*Bless this Lent* daily devotion

6:30-7:00 P.M. gather  
7:00-8:00 study

The zoom link for all the Wednesday night studies is  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/94812192432?pwd=T256VnlzQ1VwVk83eGljeGRLL3pNQ09#success>

This study will be from March 8 through April 5 (except March 29 for Prayer Class).

The *Bless the Lives We Actually Have* book by Kate Bowler is available on Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Lives-Actually-Have-Blessings-Imperfect/>

You are invited to download the daily devotion booklet "Bless the Lent We Actually Have":

[https://salemunitedmethodist.org/225\\_Bless\\_the\\_Lent\\_We\\_Actually\\_Have.pdf](https://salemunitedmethodist.org/225_Bless_the_Lent_We_Actually_Have.pdf)

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### PRAYER CLASS

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Would you like to deepen your prayer life? Do you ever feel like you just don't know how to get started? Join us on March 1 and March 29. After that it will be the last Wednesday of every month on zoom (same link as Wednesday Bible study).

6:30-7:00 P.M. Gather

7:00-8:00 P.M. Class

There will be a total of five classes, the last two being on April 26 and May 31. Email Barbara Teague to sign up: [Barbara1.teague@outlook.com](mailto:Barbara1.teague@outlook.com).

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### MISSIONS

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#### The Lord's Table

The Lord's Table serves hot meals to those in need. All members of Salem UMC are invited to help them on the first Friday of every month from 1-5 P.M. at Epworth United Methodist Church, 9008 Rosemont

Drive, Gaithersburg, MD. Additional volunteers are always needed.

### Olney HELP Food Needs

Updated 2/3/23. You may leave non-perishable food donations in the box under the table in the Sanctuary or in the marked box in the Community Hall. Food items needed most at this time: **peanut butter (smooth) –14-16 oz. jars only, pasta sides (Knorr/ Roni), spaghetti sauce—plain kind**, canned meats, such as tuna, chicken, turkey, corned beef, spam, salmon, Vienna sausage, etc.; sloppy joe sauce, canned chili, canned pasta, boxed spaghetti and pasta, 1 lb. bags of rice and rice sides (Knorr/Roni), pancake mix/syrup, baked beans, canned green beans, corn, peas (low/no salt), Canned fruit in juice, Jelly - all sizes, all flavors, condiments - BBQ sauce, ketchup, mustard, salad dressing, instant mashed potatoes - pouches and boxes, juice boxes - 100% juice, shelf stable bottled juice.

If you are interested in volunteering or know someone in need, please call their Helpline at 301-774-4334.

If you wish to make a financial donation, you may do so at: [www.olneyhelp.org](http://www.olneyhelp.org).

### Prayer Shawls

Prayer shawls are available free for anyone who is ill or needs comfort. Feel free to pick one up near the coat rack.

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### UPCOMING SPRING BIBLE STUDY

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A new Zoom Bible study will begin April 12, go thru May 24 (except for the April 26

prayer class), and take a break for summer. It will conclude in the fall.

The book is *Do I Stay Christian? A Guide for the Doubters, the Disappointed and the Disillusioned* by Brian McLaren.

It's available from Amazon:

<https://www.amazon.com/Do-Stay-Christian>

The class will be on zoom (same link as Wednesday Bible study).

6:30-7:00 P.M. Gather  
7:00-8:00 P.M. Class

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### **CONNECTIONS CLASS NEW MEMBERS**

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Four people participated in the Connections new member class. They are Janice Vieira, Nancy Nullmeyer, Mollie Haines, and Joanne MacFarlane. The service for taking vows will be on March 5.

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### **SCRIPTURE READERS NEEDED**

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We would like to expand the number of people who will read scripture during the worship service. If you would like to participate, please contact Rev. Emily.

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### **VOLUNTEER NEEDED TO SEND EMAILS**

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A volunteer is needed to send email announcements. This would include sending the weekly "What's Happening at Salem" email and some others from time to time. This is approximately a two hour a week commitment – about one hour composing

the emails and attending the Communications Team meeting via Zoom each Wednesday from 11:00 A.M – 12:00 P.M. If interested, please contact Rev. Emily.

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### **READING ROOM**

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Welcome to the Reading Room upstairs in the Community Hall where you'll be able to read or borrow books, study guides, and other Christian-focused material. Rev. Emily made a video tour. Check it out on Facebook. The Reading Room is open on Sundays from 8:30 A.M. to noon. Thanks to everyone who has donated books so far.

Some books on Methodism we have:

- 1) *The Unofficial United Methodist Handbook* from Abingdon Press
  - 2) *Three Simple Rules – A Wesleyan Way of Living* by Rueben P. Job
  - 3) *Hymns and Sacred Poems* by John Wesley and Charles Wesley
  - 4) *United Methodist Questions* by F. Belton Joyner, Jr.
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### **GIVING**

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Offerings can be sent to:  
Salem United Methodist Church  
12 High Street, Brookeville, MD 20833

If you would like to give by app, you can download the "Vanco Mobile" app and search for Salem United Methodist Church or by its invite code R8A63K.

If you haven't been able to access Vanco and would like to give electronically, we now have a PayPal option. You can use this link: <https://paypal.me/SalemBrookeville>

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## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

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If your name should be on the list, please contact the church. We don't want to leave you out. Thank you!

### March Birthdays

Briana Groves	03/11
Nicholas Groves	03/12
George Robinson	03/29

### March Anniversary

Fred and Debbie Ambrose	03/22
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## COVID

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**COVID POLICY:** Confused? Our policy is currently that masks are strongly recommended.

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Reverend Emily Hart takes Sabbath days on Saturdays and Mondays for rest and

renewal. She also honors time with her husband and dogs in the evening. Please contact her on these days (or after 8:30 P.M. on other days) only in an emergency or a scheduled meeting.

Church Address:

Salem UMC  
12 High Street  
Brookeville, MD 20833

Church Telephone: (301) 774-7772

Church Website:  
[www.salemunitedmethodist.org](http://www.salemunitedmethodist.org)

Rev. Emily's cell phone: (443) 846-5110

Rev. Emily's e-mail:  
[pastor@salemunitedmethodist.org](mailto:pastor@salemunitedmethodist.org)

Music Director:  
[music@salemunitedmethodist.org](mailto:music@salemunitedmethodist.org)

Building Use:  
[building@salemunitedmethodist.org](mailto:building@salemunitedmethodist.org)

Salem Cemetery:  
[salem12cemetery@yahoo.com](mailto:salem12cemetery@yahoo.com)

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The newsletter is prepared by the Salem United Methodist Church Communications Team. Contact any team member with questions or comments. Thanks!

Rev. Emily Hart  
Joan Aebig  
Carole Roberts  
Mollie Haines  
Nancy Joie Wilkie

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